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Dale L. Ludwig

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PATENT DIVISION

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EXAMINER

BLANCHARD, DAVID J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1643

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/28/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@lilly.com



**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

To have a general inventive concept under PCT rule 13.1, the inventions need to be linked by a special technical feature. The special technical feature recited in claim 1 is an isolated human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR and has at least one property selected from the group consisting of (i) inhibits binding of IGF-I or IGF-II to IGF-IR, (ii) neutralizes activation of IGF-IR by IGF-I or IGF-II, (iii) reduces IGF-IR surface receptor expression by at least 80% and (iv) binds to IGF-IR with a  $K_d$  of about  $3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ M}^{-1}$  or less. In view of this Cohen et al (US Patent 7,037,498, priority to 1/5/01, IDS reference 16 filed 12/23/08) reads on the claim. Cohen et al teach isolated human monoclonal antibodies that bind IGF-IR and inhibit binding of IGF-I or IGF-II to IGF-IR, neutralizes activation of IGF-IR by IGF-I or IGF-II and binds to IGF-IR with a  $K_d$  of about  $3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ M}^{-1}$  or less (see entire document, particularly cols. 5-6, 8-10, 16-17 and 21). Therefore the technical feature recited in claim 1 is not special. Accordingly the groups are not so linked as to form a single general concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1-18 and 23-33, drawn to an isolated human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR and pharmaceutical compositions comprising such.

Group II, claims 19-22, drawn to nucleic acid, vectors and host cells encoding human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR.

Group III, claims 34 and 36-40, drawn to a method of treating acromegaly comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR.

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Group IV, claims 34 and 36-40, drawn to a method of treating retinal neovascularization comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR.

Group V, claims 34 and 36-40, drawn to a method of treating psoriasis comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR.

Group VI, claims 34, 37 and 41-56, drawn to a method of reducing tumor growth comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR.

2. Claim 35 links inventions III-V. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim, claim 35.

Upon the indication of allowability of the linking claim, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be rejoined and fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Claims that require all the limitations of an allowable linking claim will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

Applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, the allowable linking claim, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

3. The inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: As set forth above, in view of the teaching of Cohen

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et al the groups are not so linked as to form a single general concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because the technical feature of claim 1 is not special.

Inventions of Groups I-II represent separate and distinct products which are made by materially different methods, and are used in materially different methods which have different modes of operation, different functions and different effects. The antibody of Group I and the polynucleotide of Group II are all structurally and chemically different from each other. The antibody is raised by immunization while the polynucleotide is made by nucleic acid synthesis. Furthermore, the polynucleotide can be used for hybridization screening and the antibody can be used to immunopurify the antigen, for example. The examination of all groups would require different searches in the U.S. Patent shoes and the scientific literature and would require the consideration of different patentability issues. Thus, the inventions I-II are patentably distinct.

The methods of Inventions III-VI differ in the method objectives. The Invention of Group III recites a method of treating acromegaly comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR; Group IV recites a method of treating retinal neovascularization comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR; Group V recites a method of treating psoriasis comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR and Group VI recites a method of reducing tumor growth comprising administering a human antibody or fragment thereof that binds IGF-IR. Thus, the inventions of Groups III-VI are directed to methods of treating disorders having different etiologies and therapeutic endpoints and are not required one for the other. The examination of all groups would require different searches in the U.S. Patent shoes and the scientific literature and would require the consideration of different patentability issues. Thus, Inventions of Groups III-VI are separate and distinct in having different method objectives and different endpoints and are patentably distinct.

Inventions I and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the antibody of Group I can be used in a materially different

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method such as to immunopurify the antigen in addition to the materially different methods of Group III, IV, V and VI.

4. Restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper because all these inventions listed in this action are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious search and examination burden if restriction were not required because one or more of the following reasons apply:

- (a) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification;
- (b) the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter;
- (c) the inventions require a different field of search (for example, searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries);
- (d) the prior art applicable to one invention would not likely be applicable to another invention;
- (e) the inventions are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

**Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.**

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected invention.

If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable upon the elected invention.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either

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instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

5. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See “Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b),” 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Blanchard whose telephone number is (571) 272-0827. The examiner can normally be reached at Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms, can be reached at (571) 272-0832.

The official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/David J. Blanchard/  
Primary Examiner, A.U. 1643